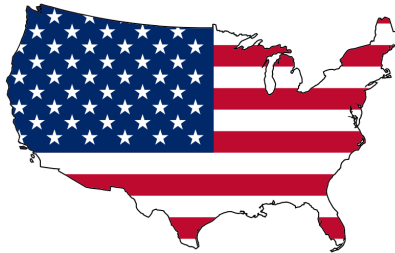


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter **C O L L A G E**



Global articles for your interest
Issue 3
February 2 - February 16, 2010

Contents:

1. In US Congress, Financial Reform Is a Work in Progress

A comprehensive regulatory overhaul designed to make the U.S. financial system less prone to crisis faces uncertainty as interested parties, policymakers and legislators maneuver for opportunities to push it through Congress, change it or kill it. ...

2. Obama Sets Funding Help for First New Nuclear Plant in Decades

President Obama says the government will guarantee more than \$8 billion in loans to help build the first new American nuclear power plant in decades. The project is expected to produce roughly 4000 new jobs. ...

3. Clinton Cites Mutual Respect and Shared Values with Muslim World

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton repeats President Obama's June 2009 call for a "new beginning" between the United States and Muslims around the world, telling audiences in Doha, Qatar, of the need for cooperation to address common challenges and to advance democracy and prosperity. ...

4. Mobile Phone Donations Break Records for Haiti Earthquake Relief

Millions of Americans have donated more than \$560 million for earthquake relief to Haiti, including \$31 million raised by the American Red Cross through an innovative use of mobile phone technology arranged with the help of the State Department. ...

5. Looking for a Full Count in US Census

Arab Americans and Iranian Americans are getting ready to be counted as the United States begins its once-a-decade census. Leaders are trying to overcome people's concerns about giving the government personal information and use the occasion to build cultural pride. ...

6. Twitter Contest Challenges the World to Define Democracy

Can you define democracy in just 140 characters? More than 1,400 people worldwide took up that challenge in a unique contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of State using Twitter. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador Reeker testifies at the Foreign Affairs Commission in Parliament. (LP)

[Praising Parliament for Exercising Oversight](#)

February 18, 2010

Ambassador Reeker spoke to the Foreign Affairs Commission from the Macedonian Parliament in their first-ever Parliament oversight hearing. After praising the Commission for undertaking this important role of government oversight, he outlined the United States global foreign policy goals. He also spoke about the billion dollars of assistance the United States has invested in the development of Macedonia and the goal we share for the country's full Euro-Atlantic integration.

♦ To see the text of his remarks, please [click here](#).



Foreign Minister Milososki and Ambassador Reeker welcome Senator George Voinovich and Senator Jeanne Shaheen. (LP)

U.S. Senators Voinovich and Shaheen visit Macedonia

February 17, 2010

United States Senators Jeanne Shaheen and George Voinovich met with Prime Minister Gruevski on Wednesday, February 17. The Senators joined the Prime Minister's cabinet to discuss challenges for Macedonia, its future as a member of NATO and the strong ties between the United States, their constituents and the people of Macedonia.

♦ To view local coverage (A1 TV video footage-WMV file, size 4.37MB) of this event, please [click here](#).



Major General Michael Dubie greets the Macedonian troops. (LP)


Major General Dubie and President Ivanov Discuss Joint Troop Participation in ISAF in Afghanistan

February 16, 2010

Major General Michael Dubie, Commander of Vermont National Guard, joined Ambassador Reeker in meeting with President Ivanov. The General also met with Minister of Defense Konjanovski to discuss troop readiness and training issues. General Dubie indicated that "the reputation of the Macedonian soldiers is known far and wide and well-documented through their service in Iraq and Afghanistan." He also expressed his belief that U.S. and Macedonian soldiers will continue to work closely together on the mission in Afghanistan as it enters a critical phase. The General and the President discussed why stability in Afghanistan is in Macedonia's interests and agreed that the next 13 months will be an important part of the mission.

- ◇ To view the video footage from MTV1 newscast in Macedonian (WMV file – size 3.84 MB) please, [click here](#).
- ◇ To view the video footage from MTV2 newscast in Albanian (WMV file – size 2.44 MB) please, [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker discusses the efficiency of the new modern electronic system for public procurement with the representatives from USAID and the Macedonian Public Procurement Bureau. (LP) |  audio - mp3 - size 5.16 MB

Supporting Efficiency and Transparency in Public Tendering

February 10, 2010

Ambassador Reeker praised the work of USAID and the Public Procurement Bureau in working together for the launch of a new electronic procurement system on Wednesday, February 10. Ambassador Reeker noted that public procurement is a major factor in the Macedonian economy, accounting for one-third of the national budget, and emphasized that the tendering procedure must be conducted efficiently and transparently in order to provide a level playing field and to attract international investors. The Ambassador also noted that the new system was one of the most advanced electronic procurement systems in the world.

- ◇ To read the Ambassador's speech [click here](#).
- ◇ To hear the Ambassador's speech (mp3 file - size 5.16 MB) [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker addresses the large crowd at the opening of the ICITAP training on "The Importance of Human Resources in Police Organizations" at the Ministry of Interior.

Improving Human Resources in the Ministry of Interior

February 8, 2010

Ambassador Reeker joined Interior Minister Jankulovska to open a training program sponsored by the State Department to improve the management of personnel in the Ministry of Interior. The Ambassador stressed that competitive, transparent and lawful decisions were critical to keeping the workforce in the Ministry motivated and focused.

♦ To see the text of his speech, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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